**GER 3955 STUDY ABROAD – A FIELD STUDY**

**CREDITS: 3**

**SUMMER 2010 : STUDY ABROAD IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR: MariaGrazia Spina**

**"THE MAKING OF THE GERMANIC WORLD: CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE"**

This directed field study is divided into two steps:

- **preparation**: one page or less research paper ***before*** going to Austria and Germany, once part of the Austro- Hungarian Empire.

- **learning outcomes** “on the field “after visiting the highlights of Vienna, Salzburg,Munich , Neuschwannstein and the Lake Region: one page essay or less on your first hand impressions relevant to the different subjects presented hereafter.

Please do your research before coming to Austria, write the one page or less essay and bring it with you, along with blank sheets for your "on the spot" research and impressions. If you prefer, you can turn everything via email ( spinagrazia@gmail.com)

-**format**: You can use a bullet format whenever you feel it necessary and add as many lines as you need.

- **tracks**: the first 6 tracks are a classical “must” see and know about Vienna and its historical and artistic importance. You can replace any of the first 6 tracks with the additional ones that you find after section VI. You can also write your own section ( to replace any of the tracks) on a subject that I have not included in this study.

***Overall , you should choose, research and write an essay following my suggested questions of 8 out of the 11 tracks proposed here.***

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1. **PUTTING THINGS IN AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE** :

THE HABSBURG MONARCHY, PRUSSIA , AUSTRIA AND GERMANY

**PREPARATION:**

Briefly highlight the rise and fall of the Habsburg monarchy, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the formation of Austria and Germany at the end of World War II, the fall of the Berlin wall and the unification of Germany.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After the visit to *Schönbrunn and the Hofburg,* please write a brief essay with your impressions about the Habsburg Monarchy.

- Would you have liked to live at that time? Why yes and why not?

- What is the aspect that has intrigued you the most about your visit at *Schönbrunn and/or the Hofburg*?

- What have you learned about the Habsburg Monarchy and the history of Austria that you did not know before this trip?

1. **TALE OF TWO EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN**:

THE PRINCESS SISSI AND THE EMPRESS MARIA THERESA

**PREPARATION:**

Briefly pinpoint the characteristics of these two powerful women, their biography, how they influenced the Austrian Empire and the major events under their reign.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

During your stay and visits to the different historical sites, please write what you learned about the Princess Sissi and the Empress Maria Theresa that you did not know and where, during your trip, you saw/visited places that still remember them.

1. **THE MIDDLE-CENTRAL EUROPEAN GEMS**:

VIENNA, SALZBURG AND MUNICH

**PREPARATION:**

Briefly highlight the main characteristics of these 3 cities that you are going to visit during this study in Austria and trip to Germany.

Are there specific monuments, museums, points of cultural interest that sound particularly interesting for you and why?

Which of these cities holds the highest expectations for you?

Were you familiar with any of these cities before signing up for this program and how?

**VIENNA**

**MUNICH AND NEUSCHWANNSTEIN**

**SALZBURG**

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Please briefly comment on your impressions after the visit of each city.

Which one did you like the best and why?

What did you learn "on the field" that you did not know before and/or did you not find in your research before coming to this trip?

Were your expectations met?

Would you go back to any of these cities?

1. **GOING IN CIRCLES**: THE RING

**PREPARATION:**

Briefly write some information regarding this very important and famous town planning innovation for the turn-of-the century Vienna.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After having been around the RING in Vienna, briefly describe your impressions about the buildings you have seen in that area. Which one impressed you the most and why?

What did you learn “in the field” that you did not expect from what you had researched before coming to Vienna?

1. **A VIENNESE OF EXCELLENCE**: SIGMUND FREUD

**PREPARATION:**

Briefly write the biography of Sigmund Freud, the Father of Psychology. Have you ever studied him and his theories in school?

Have you ever read anything written by Freud? Are you interested in Psychology?

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the address 19 Bergstrasse of Vienna you can visit the house where Sigmund Freud lived with his family, studied and worked.

After the visit , please write your impressions. What did you learn that you did not know before? What fascinated you the most in your visit?

If you were to meet Dr Freud today, what would you ask him?

1. **FOR THE LOVE OF THE ARTS**:

THE SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT,THE JUGENDSTIL, KLIMT, KOKOSCHKA, LOOS.

**PREPARATION:**

After a short research, outline the characteristics of the two most influential art movements: the SECESSIONIST and the JUGENDSTIL.

Write a short biography of the artists KLIMT,KOKOSCHKA and the architect LOOS.

Are you already familiar with any of these artists and/or movements? Do you like art? What are your expectations of the works of art you are going to visit in Vienna? What museums are you planning on visiting?

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

During your stay in Vienna there are different places where you can explore and see the work of the above mentioned artists.

Albertina, Anker clock, Burgtheater,Wagner's houses, Kirche am Steinhof, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Wiener Werkstätte, Loos Haus, American Bar, Belvedere among the most important.

Briefly write an essay with your impressions on the Viennese works of art.

What did you like the most? What did you like the least? Were your expectations met?

What did you ultimately learn about the cultural life of Vienna at the turn of the 19th century that you did not know before this trip and that you would not have learned only in books? What will you culturally bring back with you?

**YOU CAN REPLACE ANY OF THE PREVIOUS TRACKS WITH ANY OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL TRACKS:**

1. **FOLLOWING HITLER’S STEPS IN VIENNA**

CAN YOU FIND TESTIMONIALS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND HITLER’S PRESENCE GOING AROUND VIENNA?

**PREPARATION:**

Summarize the years that Hitler spent in Vienna during his youth (1908-1913) and the impact that this experience had in his future life. How did his anti-Semitism sentiment grow during his years in Vienna? When you read Hitler’s biography, do you think he felt more “German” or “Austrian”? Summarize the two different circumstances in which Hitler was in Vienna during his youth and later in his life.

What are the “Flaktürme” ? Do you plan on going to see them in Vienna?

From your research, what are the main testimonial places in Vienna where Hitler used to be seen and make his speeches?

What is the “Anschluss”? Where in Vienna will you be able to visit this piece of history?

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

If you chose this track, it means that you are interested in history.

Please explain your first hand experience visiting the Hotel Imperial and the Flaktürme.

What did you gain from walking on Hitler’s steps and imagining how much this city shaped his destiny?

1. **ENTERING THE AUSTRIAN FOOD ZONE**

FROM SACHERTORTE TO APFELSTRUDEL TO GOULASCH AND MORE.

**PREPARATION**

The Austrian cuisine has been influenced by the different cultures that have been part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Please highlight the main typical dishes that you expect to find in Vienna and the ones that you are definitely going to try. Research and write something about the history behind the Hotel Sacher and the famous Sachertorte. Choose a couple of Austrian dishes that you want to try and write about their historical background. What are the “Heurige”? Please explain.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Now that you have lived in Vienna for some time, you have certainly had the “Sachertorte” experience at the Sacher Hotel. Please describe your experience.

What else have you tasted for the first time in Vienna and/or Germany that you particularly liked? Why is it that the same flavor cannot be reproduced in another country? What has been your experience about the food in general during this study abroad? What will you particularly miss when you go back home?

If you have visited any of the “Heurige” please describe your experience or any other experience you have had in a typical Austrian and/or German restaurant, Stube or Beisl.

Have you experienced any of the Viennese cafes, other than the Sacher Hotel? Please describe.

1. **LET’S TALK POLITICS!**

THE AUSTRIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM AND PARLIAMENT.

**PREPARATION**

If political science is your focus or interest, you will have the opportunity to visit the Austrian Parliament right in the heart of Vienna and not far from your dorms.

Before you get to Vienna, do a brief research of the historical beginning of Austria and their political system. You could briefly describe the main policies that Austria has undertaken within the European Community and its primary role in the EU.

You should also highlight the political party in power now and their main trends. You should particularly focus on the Immigration Laws.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Please describe your experience in Vienna under a political and social light. You certainly visited the Parliament: what are your impressions? What did you learn that you did not expect before? How did you find Austria overall? Do you think they are well governed? How about the population? Is there any particular episode that happened during this summer study that struck your attention from a social standpoint? Feel free to comment on your experience and impressions about how the Austrian society is structured and functions.

1. **THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

EXPLORATION OF THE AUSTRIAN FAME FOR AN EXCEPTIONAL MUSICAL TALENT

**PREPARATION**

If classical music is your passion, you can start by researching and highlighting the importance of the Opera House in Vienna, of where and when Beethoven and Mozart lived in Vienna and how and why Austria is such a center point for classical music and ballet. Find out about the famous New Year’s Concert that all Europe watches on every 1st of January. Write a brief outline of all the concerts organized during the summer in Austria and about the summer music festival in Salzburg.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

You have certainly visited the Opernhaus in Vienna, you have seen the Figarohaus where Mozart composed that opera and you have visited Salzburg, his birthplace.

You have certainly “felt” Beethoven presence in Vienna where he lived in 60 different places over the span of 35 years.

What did you learn “on the field” that you did not know and/or expect before this trip about the musical capital of Europe?

**XI. ENTSCHULDIGEN SIE BITTE…..ICH HABE EINE FRAGE…**

HOW EXCITING TO FEEL LIKE A JOURNALIST OR REPORTER IN VIENNA!

If journalism is your focus and/or passion, you have the opportunity to interview someone of your choice in German and report here their answers or email me the interview in MP3 format. This track is particularly suited and appealing for students who already have quite a bit of experience with the German language and have taken higher level classes already.

You can prepare a set of (simple) questions about everyday life in Vienna or anything else that you want to know and ask a peer you have met at the University, a Professor that you like or any friend you have made in Vienna.